France A. Córdova Director National Science Foundation 2415 Eisenhower Avenue Alexandria, VA 22314

Re: 2020 GRFP Awards

Dear Dr. Córdova:

We are writing to express our strong support for NSF's Graduate Research Fellowship Program (GRFP) and to encourage NSF to fund at least the same number of awards this year as were funded last year. We recognize, as we know that you do, that GRFP awards encourage the best and brightest students to pursue STEM as a career and recognize those individuals who propose to conduct meritorious scientific research capable of broad impacts; they set promising students on a trajectory for success in their scientific careers.

With the GRFP annual submission and review process now occurring, we are concerned, per the current GRFP program solicitation, that NSF is planning to reduce the number of awards to below the previous year's level. A cut in the number of awards sends an unintended message to those at early career levels that NSF's support is declining and risks affecting women and those from underrepresented groups disproportionately.

In FY 2019, NSF funded 2,000 new fellowships; we strongly urge you to support at least that many in FY 2020. This recommendation echoes the support for GRFP recently relayed by the Senate in the Departments of Commerce and Justice, Science, and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill, 2020, which, as you know, reads, "The Committee does not adopt the proposed funding reductions for the ... Graduate Research Fellowship and instead provides the fiscal year 2019 funding level for these programs" (S. Rept. 116-127, p. 168).

Continuing to make the GRFP a priority at NSF will affirm to potential student scientists and engineers that more of them, not fewer, should pursue STEM careers, a goal we all share.

Thank you for your consideration of this issue. We look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

The Undersigned Organizations

Letter to F. Córdova re: 2020 GRFP Awards October 25, 2019

American Association of Physics Teachers

American Chemical Society

American Geophysical Union

American Institute for Medical and Biological Engineering

American Institute of Biological Sciences

American Mathematical Society

American Physiological Society

American Phytopathological Society

American Political Science Association

American Psychological Association

American Society for Biochemistry and Molecular Biology

American Society for Engineering Education

American Society for Investigative Pathology

American Society for Pharmacology and Experimental Therapeutics

American Society of Agronomy

American Society of Civil Engineers

American Sociological Association

American Statistical Association

Association for Psychological Science

Association for Women in Mathematics

Association of American Universities

Association of Population Centers

Association of Public and Land-grant Universities

Biophysical Society

Computing Research Association

Consortium of Social Science Associations

Cornell University

Council of Graduate Schools

Council on Undergraduate Research

Crop Science Society of America

Duke University

Ecological Society of America

Georgia Institute of Technology

Incorporated Research Institutions for Seismology

Mathematical Association of America

Natural Science Collections Alliance

Northwestern University

OSA-The Optical Society

Population Association of America

Princeton University

Rutgers, the State University of New Jersey

Society for Research in Child Development

Soil Science Society of America

UCLA

University of California System

University of Florida

Washington State University

West Virginia University